



**For Immediate Release**  
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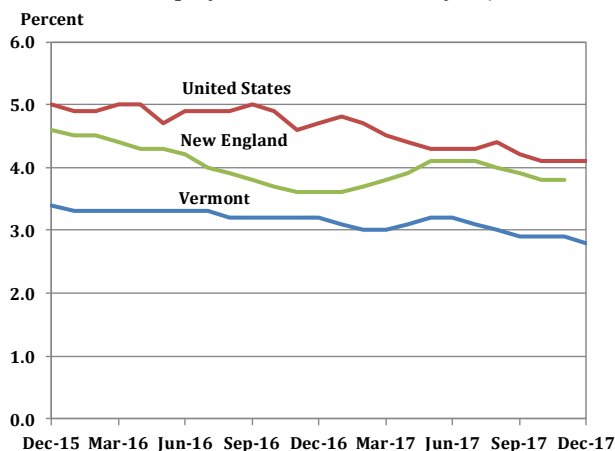
## Vermont Unemployment Rate Declines to 2.8 percent in December

The Vermont Department of Labor announced today that the seasonally-adjusted statewide unemployment rate for December was 2.8 percent. This reflects a decline of one-tenth of one percentage point from the revised November rate. The national rate in December was 4.1 percent. As of the prior month’s preliminary data, the Burlington-South Burlington Metropolitan NECTA was tied for the ninth lowest unemployment rate in the country for all metropolitan areas. Overall, Vermont’s unemployment rate was tied for the fifth lowest in the country for the same time period.

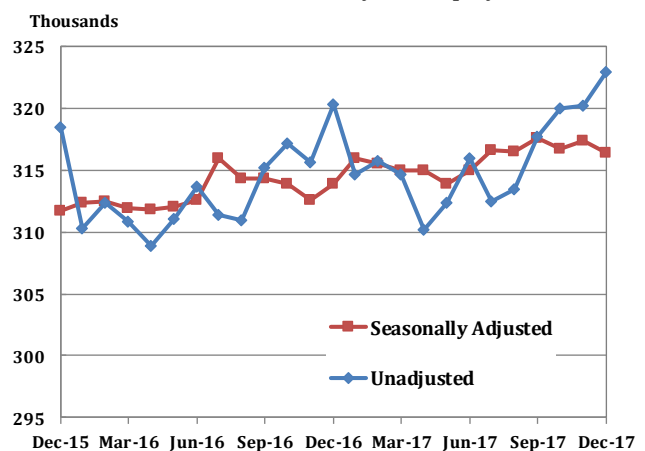
### Commissioner’s Message

“In preparation of a possible federal government shutdown, the Vermont Department of Labor is releasing the monthly ‘jobs report’ early. The Department is a partner of the federal government in the production of this information. The data was analyzed and compiled on an adjusted timeline to ensure its release in advance of a possible shutdown. The December data was originally slated to be released next Tuesday,” said Labor Commissioner Lindsay Kurrle.

**Chart 1. Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted**



**Chart 2. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment**



## *State of Vermont Overview*

The Vermont seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of one percentage point in December to a statewide average of 2.8 percent. The comparable United States rate is 4.1 percent which was unchanged from the revised November estimate. The seasonally-adjusted Vermont data for December show the Vermont civilian labor force increased by 150 from the prior month's revised estimate. The number of employed persons increased by 250 and the number of unemployed persons decreased by 100. The changes were not statistically significant in the seasonally-adjusted series.

The December unemployment rates for Vermont's 17 labor market areas ranged from 1.9 percent in Burlington - South Burlington to 4.7 percent in Derby (note: local labor market area unemployment rates are not seasonally-adjusted). For comparison, the December unadjusted unemployment rate for Vermont was 2.5 percent which reflects a decrease of two-tenths of one percentage point from the revised unadjusted November level and a decrease of three-tenths of one percentage point from a year ago.

## *Analysis of Job Changes by Industry*

### **Not-Seasonally-Adjusted**

The preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' jobs estimates for December show an increase of 2,700 jobs when compared to the revised November numbers. There was a decrease of 200 jobs between the preliminary and the revised November estimates due to the inclusion of more data. The monthly increase seen in the December numbers was primarily attributable to seasonal movements in leisure and hospitality related industries. The broader economic trends can be detected by focusing on the over-the-year changes in this data series. As detailed in the preliminary 'not-seasonally-adjusted' December data, Total Private industries have increased by 2,700 jobs (1.0 percent) and Government (including public education) employment has decreased by 100 jobs (-0.2 percent) in the past year.

### **Seasonally-Adjusted**

The seasonally-adjusted data for December reports a decrease of 1,000 jobs from the revised November data. As with the 'not-seasonally-adjusted' data, this over-the-month change is from the revised November numbers which experienced a decrease of 200 jobs from the preliminary estimates. The seasonally-adjusted over-the-month changes in December were mixed at the sector level. Those with a notable percent increase include: Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (+100 jobs or +3.6%), Durable Goods Manufacturing (+300 jobs or +1.7%) and Construction (+200 jobs or +1.3%). Sectors with a notable percent decrease include: Mining & Logging (-100 jobs or -11.1%), Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (-400 jobs or -7.4%) and Administration & Waste Services (-300 jobs or -2.5%).

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**The Unemployment and Jobs Report for January is scheduled to be released on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Table 1. Vermont Labor Force Estimates, seasonally adjusted**

	December 2017	November 2017	December 2016	Change From:	
				November 2017	December 2016
Civilian Labor Force	345,750	345,600	345,100	150	650
Employed	335,900	335,650	334,200	250	1,700
Unemployed	9,850	9,950	10,900	-100	-1,050
Unemployment Rate (%)	2.8	2.9	3.2	-0.1	-0.4

Vermont's labor force, employment and unemployment statistics are produced from a combination of a Statewide survey of households and statistical modeling. The data are produced by the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), a cooperative program with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov/lau](http://www.bls.gov/lau)) and the Vermont Department of Labor ([www.vtlni.info/labforce](http://www.vtlni.info/labforce)).

**Table 2. Vermont Labor Market Areas, Labor Force Estimates**  
not seasonally adjusted

Labor Market Area <sup>1</sup>	Civilian Labor Force	December 2017		Unemployment Rate <sup>2</sup> (%)		
		Employed	Unemployed	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-16
Vermont Total	343,750	335,250	8,500	2.5	2.7	2.8
Barre-Montpelier	26,000	25,350	650	2.4	2.4	2.8
Bennington	11,050	10,700	350	3.4	3.5	3.5
Brattleboro	22,250	21,700	550	2.5	2.8	2.7
Burlington-South Burlington	124,700	122,350	2,350	1.9	2.2	2.2
Derby	12,750	12,150	600	4.7	4.1	5.1
Highgate	9,950	9,700	300	2.8	2.9	3.4
Manchester	11,600	11,250	350	2.9	3.5	3.1
Middlebury	18,350	17,850	450	2.5	2.6	2.9
Morristown-Waterbury	17,700	17,050	600	3.5	3.5	4.0
Newbury	2,800	2,700	100	2.9	2.5	3.1
Northfield-Waitsfield	7,050	6,900	150	2.2	2.7	2.7
Randolph	7,300	7,050	200	3.0	2.8	3.1
Rutland	21,400	20,850	550	2.6	2.9	3.1
Springfield	11,000	10,750	250	2.5	2.8	2.8
St. Johnsbury	13,050	12,650	400	3.2	3.1	3.8
White River Junction	19,650	19,300	400	2.0	2.0	2.1
Woodstock	4,150	4,050	100	2.5	3.3	2.9

<sup>1</sup>The area names above are common language titles; for official names of areas including encompassing cities and towns please refer to the Vermont Labor Market Area map (<http://www.vtlni.info/lmadef2015.pdf>).

<sup>2</sup>Rate is unrounded estimate for number of unemployed divided by total labor force, expressed as a percent.

Source: Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS) produced by the Vermont Department of Labor ([www.vtlni.info/labforce.cfm](http://www.vtlni.info/labforce.cfm)) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov/lau](http://www.bls.gov/lau)).

**Table 3. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, seasonally adjusted (thousands)**

NAICS Industry	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-16	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Nov-17	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-16
<b>Statewide, Total Nonfarm<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>316.4</b>	<b>317.4</b>	<b>313.9</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>260.7</b>	<b>261.9</b>	<b>258.2</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Mining, Logging and Construction	16.1	16.0	16.2	0.1	-0.1	0.6	-0.6
Mining & Logging	0.8	0.9	0.8	-0.1	0.0	-11.1	0.0
Construction	15.3	15.1	15.4	0.2	-0.1	1.3	-0.6
Manufacturing	28.7	28.6	29.3	0.1	-0.6	0.3	-2.0
Durable Goods	17.7	17.4	18.1	0.3	-0.4	1.7	-2.2
Non-Durable Goods	11.0	11.2	11.2	-0.2	-0.2	-1.8	-1.8
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	55.5	55.5	55.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5
Wholesale Trade	9.2	9.3	9.4	-0.1	-0.2	-1.1	-2.1
Retail Trade	38.0	37.9	38.0	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	8.3	8.3	7.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	6.4
Financial Activities	12.1	11.9	11.9	0.2	0.2	1.7	1.7
Finance & Insurance	9.2	9.1	9.0	0.1	0.2	1.1	2.2
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	2.9	2.8	2.9	0.1	0.0	3.6	0.0
Professional and Business Services	28.4	28.8	27.6	-0.4	0.8	-1.4	2.9
Professional & Technical Services	14.6	14.7	14.5	-0.1	0.1	-0.7	0.7
Administrative & Waste Services	11.7	12.0	10.7	-0.3	1.0	-2.5	9.3
Education and Health Services	65.6	65.5	64.6	0.1	1.0	0.2	1.5
Private Educational Services	13.4	13.6	13.3	-0.2	0.1	-1.5	0.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	52.2	51.9	51.3	0.3	0.9	0.6	1.8
Leisure and Hospitality	38.9	40.0	37.9	-1.1	1.0	-2.7	2.6
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	5.0	5.4	4.6	-0.4	0.4	-7.4	8.7
Accommodation & Food Services	33.9	34.6	33.3	-0.7	0.6	-2.0	1.8
Other Services	11.0	11.2	10.9	-0.2	0.1	-1.8	0.9
<b>Government</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Federal	6.9	6.9	7.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-1.4
State	19.2	19.0	18.8	0.2	0.4	1.1	2.1
Local	29.6	29.6	29.9	0.0	-0.3	0.0	-1.0
<b>Burlington-S. Burlington Metro (NECTA)</b>							
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>125.0</b>	<b>124.8</b>	<b>124.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>

<sup>1</sup>Statewide Total Nonfarm is a summed total of major industries. The NAICS industry "Information" is not published seasonally adjusted because the seasonal component, which is small relative to the trend-cycle and irregular components, cannot be separated with sufficient precision.

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor ([www.vtlmi.info/ces.cfm](http://www.vtlmi.info/ces.cfm)) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov/sae](http://www.bls.gov/sae)).

Estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. See Annual Summary for details.

**Table 4. Vermont Nonfarm Payroll Employment, not seasonally adjusted**

NAICS Industry	Dec-17	Nov-17	Dec-16	Change From:		% Change From:	
	Prelim	Revised	Revised	Nov-17	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-16
<b>TOTAL NONFARM</b>	<b>322,900</b>	<b>320,200</b>	<b>320,300</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>TOTAL PRIVATE</b>	<b>264,900</b>	<b>261,900</b>	<b>262,200</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>GOODS-PRODUCING</b>	<b>44,800</b>	<b>45,900</b>	<b>45,400</b>	<b>-1,100</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
MINING, LOGGING AND CONSTRUCTION	16,000	17,000	15,900	-1,000	100	-5.9	0.6
Mining & Logging	800	900	800	-100	0	-11.1	0.0
Construction	15,200	16,100	15,100	-900	100	-5.6	0.7
MANUFACTURING	28,800	28,900	29,500	-100	-700	-0.3	-2.4
Durable Goods <sup>1</sup>	17,800	17,700	18,300	100	-500	0.6	-2.7
Non-Durable Goods	11,000	11,200	11,200	-200	-200	-1.8	-1.8
Food Mfg.	5,500	5,500	5,400	0	100	0.0	1.9
<b>SERVICE-PROVIDING</b>	<b>278,100</b>	<b>274,300</b>	<b>274,900</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES	57,300	56,500	57,000	800	300	1.4	0.5
Wholesale Trade	9,300	9,400	9,600	-100	-300	-1.1	-3.1
Retail Trade	39,100	38,500	38,800	600	300	1.6	0.8
Food & Beverage Stores	10,100	10,000	10,200	100	-100	1.0	-1.0
General Merchandise Stores	3,400	3,400	3,500	0	-100	0.0	-2.9
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	8,900	8,600	8,600	300	300	3.5	3.5
Transportation & Warehousing	7,800	7,400	7,400	400	400	5.4	5.4
Utilities	1,100	1,200	1,200	-100	-100	-8.3	-8.3
INFORMATION	4,400	4,400	4,600	0	-200	0.0	-4.3
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	12,100	11,900	11,900	200	200	1.7	1.7
Finance & Insurance	9,200	9,100	9,000	100	200	1.1	2.2
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	2,900	2,800	2,900	100	0	3.6	0.0
PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES	28,000	28,900	27,300	-900	700	-3.1	2.6
Professional & Technical Services	14,600	14,600	14,400	0	200	0.0	1.4
Administrative & Waste Services	11,200	12,100	10,300	-900	900	-7.4	8.7
EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES	66,100	66,100	64,900	0	1,200	0.0	1.8
Educational Services	13,800	14,200	13,500	-400	300	-2.8	2.2
Colleges and Universities	8,900	9,300	8,300	-400	600	-4.3	7.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	52,300	51,900	51,400	400	900	0.8	1.8
Ambulatory Health Care Services	17,700	17,500	17,300	200	400	1.1	2.3
Hospitals	14,400	14,400	14,000	0	400	0.0	2.9
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	7,700	7,600	7,500	100	200	1.3	2.7
Social Assistance	12,500	12,400	12,600	100	-100	0.8	-0.8
LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY	41,100	37,100	40,100	4,000	1,000	10.8	2.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4,600	4,500	4,300	100	300	2.2	7.0
Accommodation & Food Services	36,500	32,600	35,800	3,900	700	12.0	2.0
Accommodation	14,900	11,700	15,200	3,200	-300	27.4	-2.0
Hotels & Motels	13,800	10,800	13,900	3,000	-100	27.8	-0.7
Food Services & Drinking Places	21,600	20,900	20,600	700	1,000	3.3	4.9
OTHER SERVICES	11,100	11,100	11,000	0	100	0.0	0.9
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>58,300</b>	<b>58,100</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Federal Government	6,900	6,900	7,000	0	-100	0.0	-1.4
State Government Education	10,300	10,500	10,100	-200	200	-1.9	2.0
Other State Government	9,700	9,600	9,600	100	100	1.0	1.0
Local Government Education	23,500	23,700	23,900	-200	-400	-0.8	-1.7
Other Local Government	7,600	7,600	7,500	0	100	0.0	1.3

<sup>1</sup>Publication of Computer & Electrical Equipment Mfg. and Fabricated Metal Products Mfg. has been discontinued as of January 2017.

Source: Current Employment Statistics Program (CES) produced by the Economic and Labor Market Information Division, Vermont Department of Labor ([www.vtلمي.info/ces.cfm](http://www.vtلمي.info/ces.cfm)) in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ([www.bls.gov/sae](http://www.bls.gov/sae)).

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